

[For Private Circulation.]

REPORT OF AID
GIVEN TO
DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS.
IN
1886.

We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it
will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M. D.,

Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

A. A. ANGELL,

Resident Physician of N. E. Hospital for Women and Children.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M. D.,

Admitting Physician to the Mass. Infant Asylum.

OBJECT OF THIS CHARITY.

The object of this charity is:—

1. To give a short convalescence to any mother discharged with a young infant from a maternity hospital, no longer requiring medical care, but not yet able to work, and without means to procure the two or three weeks' rest so much needed at this period; also, occasionally, previous to the admission of applicants to these hospitals, to pay their board for a week or two, in case they are without a home, friendless, and penniless.

2. To find good boarding-places for those infants whose mothers are engaged in domestic service, or earning their living in any way which prevents their retaining the infants under their personal care, and to visit children so placed, in order to be sure that they have the attention which they require. Occasionally, also, a mother who lives in her own home receives temporary assistance.

3. Especially to watch over and befriend those unmarried mothers, who, not yet depraved, are in danger of falling into evil from their peculiarly exposed and friendless condition. A large proportion of these are girls under twenty years of age.

In selecting from a large number of applicants those

whom we assist, we are governed by the following considerations:—

1st. The love of the mother for her infant, and her corresponding desire to support it and retain it in her care.

2d. The urgent necessity and danger of those young unmarried girls who are without friends who can assist them. This class are usually orphans.

3d. The temporary poverty which is the occasional misfortune of some respectable married women, who often need only a little help for two or three weeks until tided over this period.

On the other hand, we refuse,—

1st. Those who are actually depraved.

2d. Those who regard the care of their infants as a burden from which they wish to be relieved.

3d. Those who, having earned good wages for a considerable time previous to the application, have neglected the opportunity to save money, and thus have less claim than others to receive charity.

4th. Those who have relatives able to assist them.

5th. Those who appear to be permanent paupers (a certain class of women familiar to workers in all charities).

Our work, therefore, resolves itself into,—

1st. The careful investigation of cases that present themselves.

2d. The selection of good boarding-places for infants, and the constant supervision of infants placed at board.

3d. A friendly and judicious care for the welfare of the younger and more helpless mothers.

REPORT.

We make every year in our Report a brief statement of the object of our work, but find it necessary occasionally to dwell upon one or two points which are sometimes misunderstood by those who apply to us for assistance.

Our main object may be briefly stated thus ;

1. To assist a mother, who without aid and advice, might feel obliged to place her infant in an Institution, but who with a little friendly counsel and assistance may be enabled to support both herself and her child.

We gladly befriend a woman who is not married provided she loves her infant and is willing and able to work for its support. But the assistance is given on the ground of her being a *mother*, anxious to support her child, and not that she is a "*fallen woman*." We consider this an important distinction. We would avoid classing a young woman who is anxious to lead a respectable life with those who have become degraded ; and we do not offer help as a premium on wrong doing. We desire, therefore, not to be confounded with Institutions, which, however necessary and valuable for their own purposes, have for a distinct object the reformation of depraved women.

We often receive applications from those who desire us to take an infant off the hands of a mother who is unable to support it and wishes to give it up for adoption. There are charitable Institutions which are ready to receive the child of a really destitute and deserving mother, who is rendered, by illness or by some sufficient

reason, unable to earn its support. There is, however, a comparatively small number of such cases. A large proportion of those who apply to us are able, with temporary aid, to become wholly, or almost wholly, self-supporting. There are a few who require help longer, but they usually become self-supporting after a certain length of time.

To give up a child when it is possible to retain the charge of it, has a demoralizing effect upon a woman's character. It is especially dangerous to a young girl who has taken the first step on a downward course. The best education she can have, and the surest means of awakening and developing her moral nature, is the feeling of responsibility toward the helpless creature which has been committed to her charge. We have watched in many cases the beneficial effect of this care and have seen other cases where the most painful results followed from breaking the link between the child and mother, and we earnestly entreat those who have less experience, to pause and consider the danger, before venturing to take so great a responsibility.

We find that the best arrangement for a mother and infant, is to place them in a family, the mother doing the work of a domestic and receiving small wages in consideration of being allowed to keep her child with her. For an efficient woman it is comparatively easy to obtain a situation and the arrangement is one of mutual advantage to the employer and the employed. We have made a special effort during the last two years to obtain situations of this sort, and have been quite successful, receiving gratifying testimony to the satisfaction of the employers.

It is a greater difficulty to procure a situation of this kind for a young girl, who has not been accustomed to housework, and so is not at first a good domestic; and yet, sometimes a docile and good tempered girl may be trained until her work becomes valuable. It is often worth while to place such a girl in a family, where she receives no wages for a time, but has kind and judicious treatment and is taught to do work which will enable her to be self-supporting in the future. We have sometimes been surprised at the success

of such an arrangement — the employer finding that after a time she is compensated for her trouble by obtaining the services of a valuable assistant. We earnestly entreat any one who is willing to take such a young girl into her family to communicate with us. Where the experiment is not successful, the young woman can be received again into our care.

Perhaps it will be noticed that we have a larger number of women on our list than last year, but have expended a trifle less money. This is due partly to the fact that we have been able to find, for a larger proportion, places in families where both mother and child are received together, as before explained. Sometimes the relatives of a young woman will, after a short time, take her home and take charge of her, if they find there is no other resource except to give her up. The first effort on the part of the family, in such a case is usually to try and get the baby taken off their hands; but if they find this impossible they sometimes receive both mother and child and do the best they can for them. Occasionally we give a little help in the way of milk and clothing. We have an interesting case of this sort in a young Irish American girl. Her family consisted of an old father and a brother. At first the father did not see how he could take the child home, but finding there were difficulties in the way of having it admitted to any Institution, he consented. The plan has worked perfectly. The baby is now more than a year old, and the young mother has learned to take care of it; has led a steady and upright life and has made progress in several directions; has grown neater in her housekeeping, and learned something of cooking.

It may be interesting to our friends to know that the woman mentioned as No. 2. in our last Report (among the cases that we have had for several years) has gone to the West to live with a married friend, who has offered a permanent home for herself and her little boy — now five years old. The child will have a good education, as there are schools and Sunday-schools near by. It has been the mother's wish for five years to have a home with her child and toward this aim she has looked

steadily, and it is pleasant to think that this wish seems to be fulfilled.

No. 4 in the same list married, in 1886 a respectable American man, who has adopted her little boy — now five years old.

It should be noticed that each of these women had already begun entirely to support herself and her child, before the last Report was issued.

We often have interesting letters from those whom we help, and would like to give many extracts from them but have space for only one or two.

"Dear Mrs. —, I must write, thanking you kindly for your present, and for thinking of me. I was surprised when Mrs. — handed me the box. I said 'Not for me! I don't know who would send me a Christmas present,' and when I saw your name it made the tears come to my eyes. I think you were so kind, and I know you don't look down on me, the same as others. Baby is cunning and fat and creeps, but don't walk, he is too fat, and is the pet of the house, he is so good. I can't be too grateful to you for the home you got me and my baby,— they are so good to me and my little one. Write to me when you can, for I do like to hear from you."

2. "Soon after I visited you I was parted from my parents, for they moved to the country 48 miles, and I went to board with my brother, but he did not have the same influence over me that mother did, and I found that I was gliding backward, and said to myself, 'This won't do.' 'Backward never. Forward ever.' I left Boston on May 1st and find I can lead a pure and Christian life much easier than when there. I have to battle quite hard sometimes, and when I come out victorious I feel better. * * * Don't think I never go back and fail, for I do, and that is why I feel I must and will conquer Satan, whether or no. Therefore I would like your aid by prayer. I will say that I have kept the vow made Christmas Day, three years ago, so you may be sure that as far as that is concerned I am true to my promise and I am going to remain so."

"Perhaps you will remember giving me a little cross with violets, and the words 'Jesus lives' printed on it"(an Easter card). "Every time I see it I think of some kind act or word on your part, that helped me on, and now gives me fresh courage."

We give a brief account of some cases taken either this year or at the end of last year.

1. N. S. 23. A pleasing girl highly recommended by her former employer ; but apparently too delicate for hard work. Her infant was born in February, 1886. We found a place for her in a clergyman's family ; her baby being received with her. After several months her employer wrote to us (in October, 1886.)

"She has learned to do my work nicely, and can wash and iron ; cook a nice dinner ; bake beautiful bread, and she is quiet and willing, thoroughly honest and trustworthy. We never had a girl we liked better in the house."

2. German, 19. Warmly attached to her child. Was received with the baby in a family where she had worked before ; we have seen her since from time to time and given her little presents of clothing, but no other help.

3. Irish American, 22. Went at first, for a time to the Mass. Infant Asylum as wet nurse keeping her baby with her. When the time came to leave we found a place for her in a family where she has now lived about 8 months, keeping her baby with her, and giving satisfaction. Her infant was a few weeks old when we took her in charge in December, 1885.

4. Irish American, 24. We took her in charge in May, 1886. After a few weeks we found a place for her where she could have her baby with her. She has from that time entirely supported herself and her child and has given satisfaction to her employers.

5. American, 28. We found her a place in a minister's family, where she keeps her child with her ; and her employers express themselves as much pleased with her. We spent very little money on this case.

6. This woman seemed at first a very difficult person to help. She had become so discouraged with the task of supporting two older children that the prospect of having an infant in addition to provide for completely disheartened her. The two elder children lived with their grandmother, the mother paying what she could for their board. The husband was a sailor and was away a great deal, and did not do all that he ought for the support of his family. In the summer instead of one infant twins were added to the family. We found for the mother a situation with a family

in a small country town, where she kept one of the twins with her and earned \$2.00 a week as wages, paying \$1.00 a week to her mother toward the board of her elder children, and \$1.00 toward the board of the other twin. We assisted her by partly paying for the infant at board; and by gifts of clothing. Since then her employer has allowed her to take both infants to live with her. Instead of being crushed by the added responsibility, the woman has acquired courage and energy, and seems quite a different being from what she was when we first met her.

MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE,
 MRS. W. C. WILLIAMSON,
 MARY R. PARKMAN,
 LILIAN FREEMAN CLARKE.

Subscriptions may be sent to MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE, Jamaica Plain Mass., or to DR. C. P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough St., Boston.

MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING 1886.

Old Cases, (continued from 1885)	66
New Cases, (first taken in 1886)	108
Whole number assisted in 1886	174
Married women, (new cases)	35
Unmarried women, (new cases)	73
	108

Married women, (old cases)	20
Unmarried women, (old cases)	46
	66

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.
(Married.)

Irish	10
Irish-American	3
American	2
British Provinces	2
Spanish	1
Scotch-Irish	1
Colored	1
	20

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.
(Unmarried.)

Irish	6
Irish-American	10
British Provinces	12
American	8
English	4
Scotch	2
German	1
German-American	1
Barbadoes	1
Unknown	1
	46

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.
(Married.)

Irish	9
Irish-American	2
American	8
British Provinces	7

English	4
German	2
Scotch	1
Austrian-Pole	1
Colored	1
	35

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES
(Unmarried.)

Irish	18
Irish-American	13
American	15
British Provinces	19
Scotch	2
English	1
Swiss	1
German	1
Swedish	1
English-Irish	1
French-Canadian	1
	73

AGES OF NEW CASES.
(Unmarried.)

15 years old	1
16 " "	2
17 " "	1
18 " "	4
19 " "	7
20 " "	10
21 " "	9
22 " "	6
23 " "	5
24 " "	7
25 " "	5
26 " "	3
27 " "	5
28 " "	1
31 " "	2
Unknown	5
	73

MONEY RECEIVED DURING 1886.

Bertram, Mrs. S. H.	\$24 00	Grew, Henry S.	25 00
Blake, Mrs. Geo. Baty	20 00	Heywood, Mrs. John H. . . .	10 00
<i>Beacon</i> Burnham, Mrs. W. A.	10 00	Higginson, George.	600 00
Carter, Mrs. Wm. S.	5 00	Holmes, Mrs. E. J.	10 00
Case, Mrs. J. B.	10 00	Huidekoper, Miss E. G. . . .	10 00
Clarke, Miss Cora H.	5 00	Jackson, Mrs. J. B. S.	25 00
Clarke, Mrs. E. C.	10 00	Kidder, Mrs. H. P.	100 00
Coolidge, Mrs. J. T. 3d. . . .	10 00	Kimball, Mrs. M. Day	5 00
Cross, Dr. H. B.	10 00	Lamb, Miss Rose	10 00
Cummings, Mrs. Charles A. . .	5 00	Lowell, Miss Anna C.	100 00
Curtis, Mrs. Caroline G. . . .	10 00	Lowell, Mrs. Judge	10 00
Curtis, Mrs. Greeley S.	20 00	Lyman, Mrs. Arthur T.	50 00
Curtis, Mrs. Margaret S. . . .	15 00	Mason, Miss Ida M.	200 00
Doe, Mrs. F. J.	5 00	Mason, Miss E. F.	500 00
Dole, Rev. C. F.	5 00	May, Miss A. W.	5 00
Dresel, Mrs. Otto	20 00	Minot, Dr. F.	5 00
Erdicott, Wm. Jr.	100 00	Motte, Mrs. E. L.	3 00
Emerson, Mrs. E. W.	10 00	Norcross, Miss Laura	5 00
Fields, Mrs. J. T.	10 00	Paine, Misses	10 00
Forbes, Mrs. Wm. H.	25 00	Parkinson, Mrs. John	10 00
"G"	25 00	Russell, Miss Marian	25 00
Gardner, Mrs. Geo.	25 00	Tappan, Miss Mary A.	35 00
Gardner, Mrs. J. L.	10 00	Walbach, Mrs. P. R.	25 00
Goddard, Miss Lucy	5 00	Wales, Miss M. A.	50 00
Goddard, Miss M. Louisa	5 00	Ware, Dr. Charles E.	100 00
Goddard, Miss Matilda	20 00	White, Miss Amy	5 00
Goodwin, Mrs. O.	10 00	Williams, Miss Ann	5 00
Gray, Mrs. Horace	20 00	Winthrop, Mrs. R. C.	10 00
Greene, Mrs. Wm. B.	240 00	Wolcott, Mrs. J. Huntington .	30 00

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING.

Clothing for Infants	Misses Healey.	<i>S. H. P. ?</i>
" " "	Mrs. G. R. Preston.	
" " "	Mrs. David P. Kimball.	
" " "	Young Ladies' Sewing Circle, by Miss Anna May.	
" " "	Mrs. William Parsons.	<i>184 Beacon</i>
" " "	Mrs. C. K. Cobbe.	
" " "	Mrs. Wm. S. Carter.	
" " "	Miss S. H. Wainwright.	
" " "	Mrs. S. H. Bertram.	
" " "	Mrs. E. C. Clarke.	
" " "	Mrs. Geo. Faulkner.	
" " "	Misses E. M. Shumway, knitted socks.	
Clothing for women and children	Boston Sewing Circle, by Miss Loring.	
" " " " "	Benevolent Committee of Church of Disciples,	
" " " " "	by Mrs. A. G. Bowditch.	
" " " " "	Miss Anna May.	
" " " " "	(Large bundle). A friend.	

Also Mrs. R. C. W. p.

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN ACCOUNT WITH
ANNA H. CLARKE, *Treasurer.*

Dr.

To Board of women	\$334 56
" " infants	1,136 40
" Clothing of women	138 79½
" Clothing of infants	102 51½
" Food and milk	199 19
" Fares and travelling	145 79
" Advertising	26 90
" Medicine	21 71
" Furniture	32 22
" Rent	48 00
" Printing	80 80
" Sundries	98 21
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" Salary of Assistant (gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene)	\$2,365 09
" Summer work (gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene)	260 00
" Special expenditure (gift of J. F. Clarke)	100 00
Balance to new account	48 00
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	383 11
	<hr/>
	\$3,156 20

Cr.

Jan. 1st. By cash on hand	\$ 20
By Subscriptions	2,667 00
" gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene for salary of assistant	260 00
" " " " " for extra work in summer	100 00
" gift of J. Freeman Clarke for special purpose	48 00
" interest on Bond	70 00
" money returned	11 00
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	\$3,156 20



